

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

According to this invention, there is provided a method for treating an organic exhaust gas comprises the following steps. First, an organic exhaust gas containing a harmful substance is generated. Then, a treating liquid is provided. The organic exhaust gas is contacted with the treating liquid so as to dissolve the harmful substance into the treating liquid. Finally, bacteria are contacted with the treating liquid ~~[[gas]]~~ containing the harmful substance so that the harmful substance is biochemically degraded.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of exemplary process for treating an organic exhaust gas according to this invention, wherein depicted by 100 is an organic exhaust system, 101 a gas-liquid contact process, 102 a biochemical degradation process and 103 adsorption process, 110, 111, 112 gas flow paths, 120, 121, ~~122, 123, 124 and 125~~ liquid flow paths, 130 gas flow path, 140 a sludge flow path. Depicted by Arrow signs 110 to 140 are flow directions of liquid, gas and sludge.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

According to this invention, there is provided a system for treating an organic exhaust gas comprising at least a gas-liquid contact unit for bringing a harmful substance-containing organic exhaust gas into contact with treating liquid to dissolve the harmful substances in the treating liquid and at least an organic substance degradation unit for biochemically degrading the harmful substances, in which at least the gas-liquid contact unit and the organic substance degradation unit are connected so that the exhaust gas-contacted treating liquid is transferred from the gas-liquid contact unit to the organic substance degradation unit, while the organic substance degradation unit provided with bacteria, which are arranged to bring into contact with the organic exhaust gas-contacted treating liquid, so that the biochemical degradation is carried out by bringing at least the exhaust gas-contacted treating liquid into contact with the bacteria.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The organic substance degradation unit preferably comprises at least carriers which are arranged to bring them into contact with the organic exhaust gas-contacted treating liquid, aquatic microbes as the bacteria being supported on the carrier.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In such a case, the system for treating an organic exhaust gas of this invention preferably comprises at least an adsorption unit provided with active carbon, in which the gas-liquid contact unit and the adsorption unit are connected so that the organic exhaust gas after contact thereof with the treating liquid is transferred from the gas-liquid contact unit to the adsorption unit, followed by bringing the organic exhaust gas after contact thereof with the treating liquid contact with active carbon to adsorb the harmful substances thereto.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, the system for treating an organic exhaust gas of this invention preferably have a structure in which the gas-liquid contact unit and the organic substance degradation unit are connected so that the treating liquid after contact thereof with bacteria is transferred from the organic substance decomposition unit and is circulated only within the system for treating an organic exhaust gas comprising at least the gas-liquid contact unit and the biochemical degradation unit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In Fig. 2, depicted by 200 is a system for treating an organic exhaust gas, 210 exhaust gas absorption tower, 211 treating liquid tank, 212 packing section (gas-liquid contact unit [[means]]), 213 honeycomb structure of active carbon (adsorption unit [[means]]), 214 exhaust vent, 220 an organic substance degradation tower, 221 biological filter medium (biochemical degradation unit [[means]]), and 222 an [[and]] exhaust vent, 230 to 232 pipelines, 233 sprinkling pipe, 234 up-flow washing nozzle, 235 air diffusing pipe, 236 and 237 pipelines, 240 an exhaust fan, 241 pump (treating liquid circulation pump), 242 pump (sludge draw-out pump), 250 a valve (three-way valve), 251 and 252 valve (two-way valve), 260 and 261 treating liquid. Depicted by An arrow G is a direction of gravity, which is hereinafter referred to as downside, downward or bottom, and the opposite direction as upside, upward or top.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

The three-way valve 250 is connected to the pipeline 232, a pipeline portion of the sprinkling pipe 233 and the pipeline [[235]] 238. The treating liquid may be supplied from the pipeline 232 to both of the sprinkling pipe 233 and the pipeline [[235]] 238 through the valve 250 by controlling the liquid flow by means of the valve 250.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

The pipeline ~~[[235]]~~ 238 is connected to a side surface of the organic gas absorption tower 221 above the biological filter medium 221 so that the treating liquid 260 stored in the treating liquid tank 211 is supplied to the biological filter medium 221 from upside. The treating liquid 261 is stored in the organic gas absorption tower 220 at a level enough to soak the biological filter medium 221 partially or thoroughly at least when the system for treating an organic exhaust gas 200 is operated.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, one end of the pipeline 236 is connected to a side surface portion of the organic substance degradation tower 220 in the vicinity of the bottom thereof to circulate the treating liquid 261 to the treating liquid tank 211 after the liquid 261 is supplied from the pipeline ~~[[235]]~~ 238 and passed through the biological filter medium 221 from upside to downside. The other end of the pipeline 236 is connected to the treating liquid tank 211 and provided with the valve 251 in the middle thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, the treating liquid passed through the packing section 212 is

stored in the treating liquid tank 211 and supplied to the three-way valve 250 again through the pipeline 231, pump 241 and pipeline 232. The treating liquid thus supplied to the three-way valve 250 is partially supplied to the sprinkling pipe 233 to reuse for gas-liquid contact in the packing section 212 by further sprinkling from nozzle portions of the sprinkling pipe ~~[[133]]~~ 233 (such a repeatedly circulating route of the treating liquid in the exhaust gas absorption tower 210 through the pipeline 231, pump 241, pipeline 232, three-way valve 250 and sprinkling pipe 233 will hereinafter be referred to as "route A").

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

A remainder of the treating liquid which is not supplied ~~[[to]]~~ by the three-way valve 250 through the pipeline 232 to the exhaust gas absorption tower 210 is supplied to the organic substance degradation tower 220 through the pipeline 238 ~~[[235]]~~. The treating liquid supplied to the organic substance degradation tower 220 passes through the biological filter medium 221 from upside to downside. At that time, the treating liquid brings into contact with bacteria supported on the biological filter medium 221 to form a harmless gas like carbon dioxide and water by biochemical degradation of the harmful substances and other organic contents in the liquid. The treating liquid after passing through the biological filter medium 221 is supplied to the treating liquid tank 211 again through the pipeline 236 (such a repeatedly circulating route of the treating

liquid in the organic substance degradation tower 220 through the pipeline 236, treating liquid tank 211, pipeline 231 pump 241, pipeline 232, three-way valve 250 and pipeline ~~[[236]]~~ 238 will hereinafter be referred to as "route B").

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

An amount of the treating liquid to be supplied to the treating liquid tank 211 through the pipeline 236 is controlled by means of the valve 251 as well as an amount supplied to the organic substance degradation tower 220 through the pipeline ~~[[235]]~~ 238 is controlled by means of the valve ~~[[251]]~~ 238 to maintain a level of the treating liquid enough to soak the biological filter medium 221.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

An amount of the treating liquid circulating in the route A (hereinafter referred to as "circulating amount A") and an amount thereof circulating in the route B (hereinafter referred to as "circulating amount B") are controlled by handling the three-way valve 250. When aerobic microbes are used as bacteria, the circulating amounts A and B are controlled to keep a concentration of organic substances such as harmful ones contained in the treating liquid circulating in the route B, or Biological Oxygen Demand (hereinafter referred to as "BOD") at a level below 200 mg/L as a tentative standard.

The reason is that washing of the biological filter medium 221 by means of the up-flow washing nozzles 234 or removal of sludge through the pipeline 237 is frequently required due to considerable occurrence of dead bacteria on the medium 221.